

REPERTOIRE TIPS

21st century works for mixed choir



LINDA ALEXANDERSSON
Three Songs from the Dominican
Breviary (2013) Dur: 7'
for SATB divisi

Text: Marian texts from the Breviary of the Dominican Order (Lat)
This work is a homage to the composer Arvo Pärt, whose basic triadic technique has inspired it. The work consists of three movements: Memento, Maria mater gratiae and Gloria tibi, where melodic lines weave themselves together into a unity. The work was premiered by the Chamber Choir at the Malmö Academy of Music.



TINA ANDERSSON
Love's Philosophy (2013) Dur: 6'
for SSAATTBB
Text: Percy Bysshe Shelly (Eng)

"Nothing in the world is single; all things by a law divine in one spirit meet and mingle. Why not I with thine?" Nature and romanticism combine here in the best possible way. Tina Andersson plays with the acoustics by placing the choir in specific positions to bring out echo effects. Love's Philosophy is dedicated to the Vocal Art Ensemble of Sweden and Jan Yngwe.



SVEN HAGVIL
Orpheus with His Lute (2013) Dur: 5'30"
for SSAATTBB
Text: William Shakespeare (Eng)

This work was commissioned by the Kammerchor Hannover and its conductor Stephan Doormann for their project "Shakespeare 21". The music reflects the undulating tones from Orpheus' lyre that make even the waves of the sea lie down to rest.



KIMMO HAKOLA
De kaspiska tigrarnas gud (The God
of the Caspian Tigers) (2013) Dur: 55'
Seven labyrinths for soprano, baritone and
mixed choir

Text: Stella Parland (Swe)
This piece is a fantastic journey. Parland's text is brimming with lively, colourful, allegorical imagery and Hakola writes that the markings in the choral score – light breeze, fresh breeze, ice, beasts and paradise – illustrate the mood evoked by the text. Hakola's music is a mixture of vibrant and richly-nuanced soundscape enhancing Parland's magical sense of mystery.



MIKKO HEINIÖ
Ilta (Evening) (2013-14) Dur: 55'
11 Dance Songs for mixed choir,
clarinet and cello

Text: Lorca, Whitman, Baudelaire, Kivi, Boye et al. (original languages)
A skilfully constructed suite of 11 songs divided into five thematic entities connected by intermezzos on the clarinet and cello. The music is demanding without seeming difficult, at the same time leaving room for the simple and beautiful. The heart of this cycle, *Kaukainen viita*, is a moving lullaby sung a cappella. *Ilta* was premiered together with the ERI Dance Theatre and a choreography by Tiina Lindfors, making it an all-round experience.



LARS KARLSSON
Tre motetter (Three Motets) (1999)
Dur: 18'
for SSAATTBB and soprano

Text: from the Psalms (Swe)
The three motets together constitute a little choral symphony, but they can also stand alone. Karlsson has drawn on several classical genres, from medieval parallel organum to a conven-

tional fugue. The third motet may also be taken as a set of variations on a chorale, using various types of canon, also at textual level. The result is relaxed, communicative music.



OLLI KORTEKANGAS
The Return (2014) Dur: 15'
for SATB divisi
Text: Wendell Berry (Eng)

The Return is based on the poem *The Mad Farmer, Flying the Flag of Rough Branch, Secedes from the Union* by the well-known US writer and environmental activist Wendell Berry. The poem is a powerful statement against the faceless audacity of the market economy and in favour of sustainable development. The Return is skilfully-written, colourful music, its expressive scale ranging from virtuosic brilliance to lyrical, meditative moods. The Tapiola Chamber Choir commissioned the work for its 30th anniversary concert in 2015.



JACOB MÜHLRAD
Nigun (2014) Dur: 11'30" 
for double choir divisi a cappella
Text: Fragment from Jewish church services (Heb)

Jacob Mühlrad's idea with this piece was to do an abstraction of a Jewish service. The lyrics are fragments of different services. The word *nigun* means melody. Within Kabbalah (a part of Jewish mysticism) the wordless melody is often referred to, as it is thought to communicate more than a melody with words. *Nigun* was premiered by the Swedish Radio Choir in 2014.



EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA
Four Romances from the opera *Rasputin*
(2003/2012) Dur: 8' for SAATBB
Text: Einojuhani Rautavaara/
transl. Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (Fin/Eng)

Rautavaara's opera *Rasputin* featured a group of singing gypsies. Instead of borrowing original Roma music, Rautavaara wrote his own and later thought it was a pity to leave the melancholy, moonlit songs to languish within the confines of the opera. He therefore arranged a set of "unabashedly sentimental and thoroughly melodic" pieces, first for male choir, and in 2012 for mixed choir. The song *Troika trotting* is dedicated to his wife Sini, as the lyrics were inspired by the green of her eyes.



KARIN REHNQVIST
Tenebrae (2012)
Dur: 7' for SATB divisi
Text: Paul Celan (Ger)

Tenebrae was commissioned by the Norwegian Ultima Festival for the Latvian Radio Choir. It was included in the *Concrescence Project*, which was initiated by Lasse Thoresen to investigate untempered scales and song techniques found in folk music from diverse parts of the world, with Western choirs. The means of expression include quarter tones and quasi-imitative passages alternating with homophone sections accompanying Paul Celan's sensitive text.



SVEN-DAVID SANDSTRÖM
The Half-Finished Heaven (2013)
Dur: 5'
for SMzATBarB

Text: Tomas Tranströmer/transl. Robin Fullton (Eng)
"The eager light streams out, even the ghosts take a draught." Tranströmer's existential and hopeful poem is painted in Sandström's setting by soft and bright strokes. The *Half-Finished Heaven* was commissioned and premiered by the Sofia Vocal Ensemble, and has now been recorded on the CD *One Early Spring Evening* (CR017).